

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A medical pacifier for delivering gas to a patient, the pacifier
2 comprising:
3 a nipple member adapted to be received within an oral cavity of the
4 patient, the nipple member having a conduit extending therethrough and an outlet
5 opening provided therein; and
6 a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain outside
7 the oral cavity, the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a lumen
8 extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of the
9 nipple member, wherein the inlet opening is adapted to be connected to an external
10 gas source such that gas can flow through the base and the nipple member for
11 delivery via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

1 2. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the base
2 includes a base plate disposed generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the
3 nipple member, the base plate having a concave front surface facing the nipple
4 member and a convex rear surface facing away from the nipple member.

1 3. The medical pacifier according to claim 2, wherein the base
2 further includes a connector projecting from the rear surface of the base plate,
3 wherein the lumen extends through the connector and the inlet opening is disposed
4 in a proximal end of the connector.

1 4. The medical pacifier according to claim 3, wherein the proximal
2 end of the connector has an outer diameter of approximately 15 mm.

1 5. The medical pacifier according to claim 3, wherein the connector
2 is generally L-shaped.

1 6. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the outlet
2 opening is provided in a distal end of the nipple member.

1 7. The medical pacifier according to claim 2, further including a
2 handle ring pivotally attached to the rear surface of the base plate.

1 8. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein pacifier
2 includes a longitudinal slit formed therein for receiving an endoscope.

1 9. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the nipple
2 member is impregnated with medication.

1 10. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the pacifier
2 is molded from a plastic material.

1 11. The medical pacifier according to claim 1, wherein the pacifier
2 is of one-piece construction.

1 12. A medical pacifier for delivering anesthetic gas to a patient, the
2 medical pacifier comprising:

3 a base adapted to remain outside an oral cavity of the patient, the base
4 including a base plate having a concave front surface and a convex rear surface, a
5 connector projecting from the base plate rear surface which includes an inlet opening
6 provided in a proximal end thereof and a lumen extending therethrough; and

7 a nipple member projecting from the base plate front surface and
8 adapted to be received within an oral cavity of the patient, the nipple member having
9 a conduit extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the lumen
10 and an outlet opening provided in a distal end thereof,

11 wherein the inlet opening is adapted to be connected to a source of
12 anesthetic gas, such that anesthetic gas can flow through the pacifier for delivery via
13 the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

1 13. An apparatus for inducing anesthesia in patient, the apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a breathing circuit including a source of anesthetic gas and an inlet
4 tube connected to the source and operable to transport the gas toward the patient;
5 and

6 a medical pacifier connected to the breathing circuit, the pacifier
7 including

8 a nipple member adapted to be received within an oral cavity
9 of the patient, the nipple member having a conduit extending therethrough and an
10 outlet opening provided therein, and

11 a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain
12 outside the oral cavity, the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a
13 lumen extending therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of
14 the nipple member,

15 wherein the inlet opening is adapted to be connected to the inlet tube
16 such that anesthetic gas can flow through the base and the nipple member for
17 delivery via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

1 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the base includes
2 a base plate disposed generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the nipple
3 member, the base plate having a concave front surface facing the nipple member and
4 a convex rear surface facing away from the nipple member.

1 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the base includes
2 a connector projecting from the rear surface of the base plate, wherein the lumen
3 extends through the connector and the inlet opening is disposed in a proximal end
4 of the connector.

1 16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the proximal end
2 of the connector has an outer diameter of approximately 15 mm.

1 17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the breathing
2 circuit further includes an outlet tube connected to the source, and the inlet tube and
3 the outlet tube are joined to form a single tube end which is adapted to be fitted over
4 the proximal end of the connector.

1 18. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the connector is
2 generally L-shaped.

1 19. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the outlet opening
2 is provided in a distal end of the nipple member.

1 20. The apparatus according to claim 14, further including a handle
2 ring pivotally attached to the rear surface of the base plate.

1 21. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein pacifier includes
2 a longitudinal slit formed therein for receiving an endoscope.

1 22. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the nipple member
2 is impregnated with medication.

1 23. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the pacifier is
2 molded from a plastic material as a single piece.

1 24. A method for delivering gas to a patient, the method comprising:
2 inserting a medical pacifier into an oral cavity of the patient, the
3 pacifier including a nipple member adapted to be received within the oral cavity and
4 having a conduit extending therethrough and an outlet opening provided therein, and
5 a base attached to the nipple member and adapted to remain outside the oral cavity,
6 the base including an inlet opening provided therein and a lumen extending
7 therethrough which is in fluid communication with the conduit of the nipple
8 member;
9 connecting a gas source to the inlet opening; and

10 supplying gas through the base and the nipple member for delivery
via the outlet opening into the oral cavity of the patient.

1 25. The method according to claim 24, wherein supplying gas
2 includes supplying anesthetic gas.

1 26. The method according to claim 24, wherein supplying gas
2 includes delivering gas toward the pacifier under positive pressure.

1 27. The method according to claim 24, wherein connecting a gas
2 source includes connecting an external tube to the inlet opening.

1 28. The method according to claim 24, further including dispensing
2 medication into the oral cavity of the patient via the nipple member.

1 29. The method according to claim 24, further including dipping the
2 nipple member into a dextrose solution prior to inserting the pacifier into the oral
3 cavity of the patient.

1 30. The method according to claim 24, further including inserting
2 an endoscope through the pacifier and into the oral cavity of the patient.

1 31. The method according to claim 24, further including placing a
2 face mask on the patient.